TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 2, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 27 totaled an estimated 17.7 billion ton-miles, 2.6 percent above the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 289.8 billion ton-miles, down 4.0 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 27 totaled 389,359, down 1.1 percent from last year, and 0.3 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.3 percent in the West, but down 2.3 percent in the East and 5.1 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up by 3,464 cars (17.3 percent), and crushed stone, gravel and sand showed a gain of 1,885 cars (16.2 percent). Ten of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

## Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 20 totaled 85,839 trailers and/or containers, virtually the same as the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 1,336,552 trailers and/or containers, down 4.5 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/27/85:

| | Loadings in Week ended April 27, 1985 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1984 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 18,321 | D | 5,565 | 23.3 | D | 1,658 | 8.3 |
| Other farm products | 3,631 | D | 544 | 13.0 | D | 225 | 5.8 |
| Metallic ores | 16,397 | D | 1,203 | 6.8 | I | 835 | 5.4 |
| Coal | 114,687 | I | 4,961 | 4.5 | D | 2,403 | 2.1 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 13,526 | I | 1,885 | 16.2 | I | 92 | 0.7 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 11,421 | D | 1,296 | 10.2 | I | 361 | 3.3 |
| Grain mill products | 9,974 | D | 227 | 2.2 | D | 525 | 5.0 |
| Food and kindred products | 11,469 | I | 622 | 5.7 | D | 24 | 0.2 |
| Primary forest products | 11,147 | D | 3,519 | 24.0 | D | 409 | 3.5 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 8,365 | I | 460 | 5.8 | I | 594 | 7.6 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 14,346 | D | 512 | 3.4 | I | 481 | 3.5 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 26,611 | D | 147 | 0.5 | D | 720 | 2.6 |
| Petroleum products | 4,500 | D | 610 | 11.9 | D | 139 | 3.0 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 11,380 | D | 341 | 2.9 | D | 194 | 1.7 |
| Coke | 5,602 | D | 228 | 3.9 | I | 133 | 2.4 |
| Metals and products | 9,860 | D | 828 | 7.7 | I | 1,074 | 12.2 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 23,518 | I | 3,464 | 17.3 | I | 263 | 1.1 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 9,293 | D | 732 | 7.3 | D | 28 | 0.3 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 6,414 | D | 619 | 8.8 | D | 31 | 0.5 |
| All other carloads | 58,772 | I | 708 | 1.2 | I | 1,376 | 2.4 |
| LCL traffic | 125 | D | 108 | 46.4 | I | 0 | 0.0 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 389,359 | D | 4,379 | 1.1 | D | 1,147 | 0.3 |
| Corresponding week of 1984 | 393,738 | | | | | | |

| | 1985 | 1984 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks) | 6,287,465 | 6,642,226 | D 5.3 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 16 Weeks ended April 20 | 272.1 | 284.6 | D 4.4 |
| Week ended April 27 | 17.7 | 17.2 | I 2.6 |
| 17 weeks cumulative | 289.8 | 301.9 | D 4.0 |

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